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and is well adapted for museums and large collections, where the labor of individual cleaning would be too great. But so far as regards mites this is not necessary if the drawers or boxes only fit moderately closely. Then it will be found sufficient to expose a few crystals of pure naphthaline for an hour or two in the drawers. This is the simplest, easiest, and most effectual of all contrivances to destroy mites.

Where it is necessary to treat the insects in detail, another effective but more troublesome plan is to expose the infected insect to the vapor of liquid ammonia, by placing a morsel of sponge in a paint saucer and moistening it with a few drops of powerful liquid ammonia. The insect is placed on a bit of cork alongside of the sponge, and the whole covered by a tumbler or small bell-glass, so as to keep in the vapor; and in ten minutes or a quarter of an hour the cure is generally complete. Sometimes it must be repeated; but this is rarely necessary.

Insects should never be put away until they have been well dried, and, if necessary, freed from fatty visceral matters. This is particularly necessary for kinds brought up in captivity or full of juice at the moment of their capture.

RECENT LITERATURE.

MURRAY'S ECONOMIC ENTOMOLOGY.¹—While this work refers at length to such myriopods, spiders and Thysanura as in any way affect man, it is mainly devoted to the mites and ticks, and as such is the only recent and complete manual treating of these important animals which is accessible to the English student. The collections forming the basis of the work are in the Bethnal Green Branch of the South Kensington Museum, and must form a curious department of the museum. This collection is designed for the instruction of the people, and the specimens illustrative of insects injurious to vegetation, or obnoxious to man and the domestic animals, are openly exposed in cases along with colored figures of them, often more or less magnified according to the size of the insect, a practice particularly useful in such minute beings as the mites. Models of injuries done to perishable objects have also been added. It is doubtful, judging by the author's statements, whether there is any other museum either in Europe or America where such a mass of information regarding the habits of troublesome or injurious insects have been spread before the people.

¹ *South Kensington Museum Science Handbooks. Branch Museum, Bethnal Green. Economic Entomology. Aptera.* By ANDREW MURRAY. Prepared at the Request of the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education, and Published for them by Chapman & Hall, 193 Piccadilly, London. 1877. 12mo, pp. 433.

In the case of the mites, not only are European species, but a few of the more prominent North American species are described or referred to, and figures given of them copied from illustrations by American authors.

Not only are the human parasites, as the itch mite, etc., figured, but those infesting our domestic mammals and birds; and the leaf and gall mites and allied forms are noticed at greater or lesser length. As an example of the author's mode of treating his subject, we have reprinted in the preceding pages of this number, an account of a mite which injures dried insects in museums in Europe, and which is undoubtedly the species which occurs under similar circumstances in this country. It appears from Mr. Murray's statements that the flour mite (*Tyroglyphus siro* Linn.) and *Acarus farinæ* or cheese mite, and the milk mite (*Acarus lactis*) are all different names for one and the same species, as is also the *Acarus dysentericæ* of Linnæus, this mite having in one case caused the dysentery in Rolander, a student of Linnæus. Figures and an interesting account is given of Cross's famous *Acarus*.

The plan of the work is excellent and well carried out, and we sincerely trust that the author will be able, as he designs doing, to furnish us with similar treatises on the "bug, locusts, grasshoppers, cockroaches, and earwigs; the two-winged flies, the bees, wasps, etc.; the dragon-flies and May-flies; butterflies and moths; and lastly, the beetles." These manuals are prepared at the request of the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education, and give evidence of the liberal spirit now pervading the minds of the public men of Great Britain.

BAIRD'S ANNUAL RECORD OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY FOR 1876.¹
— This is the sixth volume of the series, and presents a summary of the most important discoveries in natural and physical science during the year 1876. In addition, a large portion of the book is devoted to abstracts, more or less systematically arranged, of special memoirs, while there is appended a necrology, and a list of the more important scientific publications for the year. Such a book needs a detailed index, and a systematic and analytical table of contents, and we doubt if much fault will be found with the manner in which they have been prepared. Professor Baird has been aided by a number of scientists, whose names are given with the departments which they have reported upon, so that the book carries besides the authority of the name of the editor that of the specialists who have assisted him.

As a handbook of scientific progress this series of annual records is not only indispensable to the general reader, but we doubt not that the specialist who would not be ignorant of what has been done in other departments of science than his own, will find these volumes better fitted to satisfy his thirst for general knowledge than any other with which we are acquainted. The plan of the work leaves in its present state little

¹ *Annual Record of Science and Industry for 1876*. Edited by SPENCER F. BAIRD, with the assistance of eminent men of science. New York: Harper & Brothers. 1877. 12mo, pp. 609.